

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01657 241127Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----118586 241133Z /14

O 241007Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7352
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1657

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG MARR MOPS PLO, XF LE SY FR
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: FRENCH DEMARCHES IN DAMASCUS

REF: PARIS 9934 NOTAL

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR ROUILLON TOLD US EVENING MARCH 23 THAT
KHADDAM BEING UNAVAILABLE, HE HAD MADE DEMARCH RE CEASEFIRE
AND UNIFIL ACTION TO DIRECTOR OF KHADDAM'S OFFICE EARLIER
THAT DAY. HE HAD ALSO DISCUSSED NEED TO STOP IRAQI CONVOYS.

OFFICE DIRECTOR PROMISED APPRISE

KHADDAM OF FRENCH CONCERN. DIRECTOR HAD NOTED THAT
PERSONNEL TRANSITTING SYRIA IN THE IRAQI CONVOYS WERE NOT
REPEAT NOT TRAINED MILITARY BUT MAINLY INDIVIDUAL
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PALESTINIAN STUDENTS CARRIED AWAY BY
ENTHUSIASM TO DO SOMETHING, ANYTHING, TO HELP THEIR
PEOPLE IN WAKE ISRAELI INVASTION. SYRIA SAW NO WAY TO PREVENT
THEIR TRANSITTING THIS COUNTRY TO LEBANON.

2. COMMENT: FONMINISTRY'S POSTURE IS THAT IT UNDERSTANDS
CONCERN BEING EXPRESSED HERE BY VARIOUS EMBASSIES (CERTAIN

WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OURSELVES) ABOUT SYRIA'S PERMITTING CONVOY
TRANSIT, BUT THAT THEY CONSIDER OUR CONCERN TO BE
EXAGGERATED GIVEN NATURE OF VOLUNTEERS INVOLVED.
KEY TO ENERGIZING SYRIAN LEADERSHIP TO INTERDICT CONVOYS AND
GENERALLY PLAY ACTIVE ROLE IN CONTROLLING PALESTINIANS IN
SOUTH LEBANON WILL BE FIRM NEWS ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL
PLANS.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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